SUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the menace of spurious and adulterated consumer goods in the market;

(b) if so, what concrete steps Government have taken or propose to take to tackle the problem; and

(c) whether Government propose to standardise the quality and price of the consumer items to save the innocent pub lic from the present situation, if so, what are the steps taken are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE *MINISTER OF STATE IN THE* MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The Bureau of Indian Standards has taken a number of steps with the objective that consumers got quality products. About 2000 Indian Standards for consumer products have been formulated, specifying the functional and safety requirements. Formulation and upgradation of Standards is an on-going activity of BIS.

BIS is also operating a Certification Marks Scheme under which manufacturers are licensed to use the Slandari Mark, on goods produced by them an conformity with relevant Indian Stam-dards.

The Bureau takes a number of steps to ensure that the goods bearing the Standard Mark have been produced in accordance with the relevant standards. This Scheme is generally voluntary in nature. However, Compulsory Certification has been provided by the Government under various Acts, Orders, Rules etc. for such products (at present 129) which are important from the point of view of health and safety of consumers.

BIS also has a mechanism under which the consumer can seek redressa] of their grievances against quality of ISI Marked products.

BIS also takes appropriate action against those units which are not licensed but found misusing the Standard Mark.

Import of palm oil

16. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have imported pa'im oil for public distribution system;

(b) the details of the quantity of the oil imported; and

(c) what is the cost price of imported palm oil and at what price it is to be distributed through; Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CON SUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DIS. TRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir, The Government has not imported any quantity of Palm Oil for Public Distribution System during the current financial year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Strengthening of BIS

17. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have recently taken a decision to strengthen the BIS to upgrade the quality of Indian products to international level to boost ex. ports;

(b) whether the BIS laboratories tfouW be modernised with the help of World Bank;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and